

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 108196
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05
H-02 /047 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL:JY
APPROVED BY EA/VLC:JDROSENTHAL
-----140248Z 121317 /66

P 131514Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 108196

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, VN

SUBJECT: US-SRV RELATIONS: DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENTS
MAY 11

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF QUESTION AND ANSWER AT DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN'S NOON BRIEFING MAY 11:

BEGIN TEXT:

Q: THERE IS A REPORT FROM BANGKOK TODAY WHICH ALLEGES
THAT THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IN AN OFFICIAL COMMENTARY
IS RULING OUT THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND COOPERA-
TION IN THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING AMERICANS UNLESS THE
UNITED STATES PROVIDES ASSISTANCE FIRST.

A: GEORGE, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE UPI REPORT?

Q: THAT IS CORRECT.

A: OKAY. WELL, THE LEAD IN THE NEWS STORY THAT YOU REFER
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TO --

Q: TAKE A RIDE ON THAT ONE.

A: -- DOESN'T APPEAR TO CORRESPOND PRECISELY WITH THE
ACTUAL TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL IN "NHAN DAN," AND WE HAVE
COPIES OF THAT, IF YOU WANT. BUT I THINK IN COMMENT I

WOULD SAY ONLY THAT OUR VIEWS HAVE BEEN STATED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL IN THE PAST FEW DAYS BY THE SECRETARY IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, AND MORE RECENTLY BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ON THE HILL BEFORE THE WOLFF SUBCOMMITTEE.

NOW, I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO THESE COMMENTS. WE EXPECT TO MEET AGAIN IN PARIS WITH THE VIETNAMESE IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE108196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDROSENTHAL:JY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770170-0207
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770561/aaaabzxt.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 55b5a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2533302
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SRV RELATIONS: DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENTS MAY 11 FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF QUESTION AND ANSWER AT DEPART
TAGS: PFOR, US, VN
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/55b5a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009